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## Fire ants discovered in LV

### REVIEW-JOURNAL CAPITAL BUREAU

Imported fire ants have been discovered in a palm tree sold by a Las Vegas nursery, and state Agriculture Department officials are asking residents who may have purchased one of the plants to examine it closely.

The infestation of a Queen Palm in a seven gallon container imported from Florida was confirmed Friday, said state Entomologist Jeff Knight. The palm was purchased at Charleston Plant World.

A homeowner noticed the aggressive stinging of the ants and notified the agency. Samples were collected and confirmed as red imported fire ants.

"We measure the potential cost of eradicating this pest in the millions of dollars should it become established here in Nevada," Knight said.

Thomas Smigel, regional manager for the department, said the palms, which sold for \$49.95, came into the nursery on March 1. The homeowner purchased one on March 10 and left it on his patio. He reported the ants on March 28 after being bitten.

Of the 150 trees received by the nursery, 100 were sold. Anyone purchasing one of the palms who believes it may be infested should call the Department of Agriculture in Las Vegas at 486-4690.

This story is located at:

[http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj\\_home/2002/Apr-02-Tue-2002/news/18431738.html](http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2002/Apr-02-Tue-2002/news/18431738.html)

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: 3-3-03 ROOM: 3137 EXHIBIT L

SUBMITTED BY: Assemblyman Tom Collins